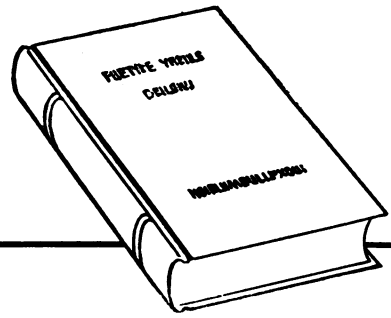

THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

TEXTBOOK OF VIROLOGY—For Students and Practitioners of Medicine—Third Edition— A. H. Rhodes, M.D., F.P.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.S.C. Director, School of Hygiene, University of Toronto; Professor of Microbiology, School of Hygiene, University of Toronto; and Virologist, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto; and C. E. Van Rooyen, M.D., D.Sc. (Edin.) M.R.C.P. (Lond.) F.R.C.P. (C), Professor of Bacteriology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Associate Director, Nova Scotia Public Health Laboratory, and Honorary Consultant in Virus Diseases, The Royal Canadian Naval Hospital, Halifax. Williams and Wilkins Co., Mt. Royal and Guilford Ave., Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1958. 642 pages, $10.00.

Only two texts are available that are entirely suitable as source material for medical students and physicians in their study of virus disease. This one, now available in the third edition, has seemed to the reviewer to be the most satisfactory. Frequent revisions have been necessary since the study of filterable viruses and disease caused by them is the fastest moving field in microbiology. Any text will, of necessity, be out of date by the time it appears but the authors of this one have included sufficient information so that the student will at least be aware of the beginnings of many current and exciting developments.

The practical details of the laboratory diagnosis of virus diseases are scattered through the book in relationship to the various agents under consideration. A single chapter which would describe, for the student, the basic principles of isolation and identification of viruses and the serological recognition of infection would be helpful, particularly if it categorized the methods used and agents to be expected in the study of disease of the various organ systems. Such orientation has become increasingly important as the diagnosis of virus disease has passed out of the realm of the research institute into that of the clinical laboratory.

It would also be desirable in future editions to rearrange the sections of the text to give added information about the emphasis to those viral diseases that are quantitatively most important. All of the respiratory viruses discussed in this edition receive only twice the space allotted to smallpox, a disease of more historical than immediate clinical significance.

Medical students and physicians will enjoy this book which should be in their libraries. It is highly recommended.

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CLINICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY — The Spatial Vector Approach—Robert P. Grant, M.D., National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1957. 225 pages, $7.50.

This book is a provocative account of Dr. Grant's attempt to interrelate conventional electrocardiography with the spatial vector approach to interpretation. Dr. Grant has been an exponent of the spatial vector approach for many years and has made original contributions in this field. The book is clearly written, simplifies the vector concept and shows electrocardiograms from which the vector was derived. The book is a highly personal account, and statements are made which, in the reviewer's opinion, could be disputed. Nevertheless, Dr. Grant marshals a good deal of support for them and gives one considerable food for thought. His analysis of left axis deviation, for example, is most interesting, and he supports his concept that left axis deviation is due to anterolateral myocardial infarction with peri-infarction block.

One of the major advantages of Grant's book is the emphasis he places on visualizing the electrocardiogram from an electrophysiological point of view rather than an empirical point of view. His account of electrophysiology as it pertains to the use of the vector in understanding the clinical electrocardiograph is readable and understandable.

The sections on arrhythmias and congenital heart disease are barely adequate and could, with profit, be expanded.

The book is highly recommended as a thoughtful approach to clinical electrocardiography, but the reviewer is not certain whether the book is desirable for a beginner or whether for the physician who is competent in conventional electrocardiography and wishes to learn more about the vector electrocardiology.

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THE CARE OF THE PATIENT IN SURGERY INCLUDING TECHNIQUES (Third Edition)—Edythe Louise Alexander, R.N., B.S., M.A., Director of Nursing Service and Principal of the School of Nursing, Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, N. Y. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1958. 840 pages, with 555 illustrations, including 5 in color, $12.75.

The large field indicated by the title of the book is well covered. It is written primarily for surgical nurses and should prove a good book of reference for them. The first chapter tells how to plan a new operating room and acquaints one with the myriads of details involved in this work. Chapter two deals with sterile equipment and safety factors for patient and personnel. Chapters three, four and five cover skin disinfection, gowning and gloving procedures, standard nursing procedures and suturing techniques. Procedures are well described in steps with word and picture. We are told that the first step in scrubbing is to turn on the faucet and bring the water to a suitable temperature and finally to turn the faucets off. The steps in between are fully outlined. Scrubbing time is governed by the degree of contamination but just how this is determined is not stated. Chapters six to seventeen describe operating room procedures involved in the special surgical fields, but surgery of the eye is omitted. Important anatomical features are simply illustrated and instruments are pictured and named. The volume should be of value to everyone concerned in operating a surgical unit. It is highly recommended.

The cliche of the importance of teamwork is mentioned. The reviewer wishes only that the efficient, silent, indispensable work and skill of the operating room nurse could be put in adequate words of appreciation.

GUNTHER NAGEL, M.D.